

Elachura formosa (Walden).

Troglodytes punctatus BLYTH, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, XIV, 1845, pt. 2, p. 589 (*nec* Brehm).

Troglodytes formosus WALDEN, Ibis, 1874, p. 91.

Type locality.—Darjeeling, India.

Geographical distribution.—Neighborhood of Darjeeling, northeastern India.

The name *punctata* is untenable for this bird, being preoccupied by *Troglodytes punctatus* Brehm,¹ a synonym of *Olbiorchilus troglodytes*. Dr. Sharpe long ago called attention to this fact,² but the term *punctata* unfortunately has been adopted by some later writers.

Elachura haplonota Baker.

Elachura haplonota BAKER, Ibis, 1892, p. 62, pl. ii.

Type locality.—Hungnum Peak, North Cachar Hills, India.

Geographical distribution.—North Cachar Hills, northeastern India.

Seemingly a very distinct species.



A SUMMER COLONY AT ANTICOSTI.

BY JOSEPH SCHMITT, M. D.

Plate VII.

ANTICOSTI ISLAND, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where I have lived for some years as medical doctor in the service of the proprietor, Mr. Henri Menier, offers for study many very interesting subjects of natural history. In respect to birds, I will now call attention to a summer colony of sea-birds, which, while not having the importance of several famous bird rocks, as those at Percé, nevertheless deserves special mention. Here in a bay is Gull Cliff, facing northeast, which, from May until September is the resort

¹ Naturg. Europ. Vögel, I, 1823, p. 318.

² Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., VI, 1881, p. 279.

of numerous birds which come here to breed. The steamer 'Savoy,' in visiting the different places around the island, is sometimes obliged in stormy weather to seek shelter in this harbor. It was while the 'Savoy' was at anchor that I chanced to have the opportunity of observing the birds of Gull Cliff.

When a mile out in the offing we could perceive with a telescope about these abrupt rocks an incessant stream going and coming, like an immense swarm of bees near a gigantic hive, usually forming two parallel but opposite currents. On approaching we could better determine these objects, and little by little could distinguish the birds. Even some of them, going in pursuit of fish, would pass near the steamer so that we could recognize the species. At last, the depth of the sea being sufficient, the 'Savoy' came to anchor very near the shore. The approach of the boat disquieted the colony, and it was all in confusion, as when the anchor is let go the sound of the chain is echoed from the cliff. Then from every jutting point of the rocks numberless birds fly off, but they soon return again. If we land with the ship's boat there is a new disquiet in the colony, but the birds quickly compose themselves and soon begin again their continuous going and coming as if nothing had happened.

At low water it is possible to land at the foot of this rock, where is light rubble, which is covered again at high water. This cliff, cut perpendicularly and nearly 200 feet high, is composed of layers of rock which offer numerous projections, every one of which contains a nest. The jutting point is often so small that the bird has just room enough to lay its eggs, and it often happens that the young as they increase in size, a few days after birth, in spite of wondrous equilibrium, cannot maintain themselves in the rudimental nest, and fall down the cliff where they are quickly drowned.

On carefully observing these birds, we find that the greatest number are Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) which occupy the rock from the inferior third nearly to the summit.

Among them we find grouped several families of Murres (*Uria troile*) and, especially on the southern portion, some Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*). Also here and there some Bonaparte Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and above these and always near the top of the rock several nests of Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*).

Near the anchored steamer were many 'Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), but I could not tell whether or not they live on the cliff.

The length of the cliff inhabited by the birds is about one mile. By counting the birds on a section of the cliff, we estimated the number of birds at not less than 60,000. The photographs (Pl. VII) were taken under very unfavorable circumstances, owing to foggy weather, but may help to give some idea of the abundance of the birds.

AN UNDESCRIBED FORM OF THE BLACK DUCK (*ANAS OBSCURA*).

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

IT is a matter of common belief among our more intelligent and observing wild-fowl gunners that two kinds of Black Ducks are found in New England, and certain of the characters by which they are thought to be separable have been mentioned, as well as briefly discussed, by writers on ornithology or field sports. To one, a comparatively small, dark race having a dusky or olivaceous bill and brownish legs, all our local or breeding birds are supposed to belong; the other, a larger, lighter-colored form with clear yellow bill and bright red legs, is known to occur only during migration or in winter. I have often been struck by these and certain other differences which will be mentioned later, and for the purpose of testing their value and significance I have brought together, with the kind assistance of several of my friends, a large series of specimens most of which were obtained in New England in autumn, winter or early spring. Among them are a dozen or more collected in late August and early September at Lake Umbagog, which almost certainly represent the form resident in summer throughout New England although I have none from any locality south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence which were taken at the *height* of the breeding season. Some of my specimens were weighed before being skinned and many of them are accompanied by notes